

There are some **basic requirements** in order to become a Foster/Adoptive parent. All applicants must be **at least 21 years old** to qualify. You can **be married or single**.

You must have a **stable source of income** and **enough living space** to provide a child (children) with a **safe and healthy environment**.

The **first step is to call** the Erie County Resource Family Homefinding Division at **858-7274**. We'll explain the application process and **schedule a general orientation** session for you to attend.

If you decide to apply, **our staff will provide expert training** and professional guidance during your preparation sessions.



Erie County Department of Social Services
Resource Family Homefinding
858-7274



Become an Erie County
Foster/Adoptive Family



Become the most important person in their lives.

The choice to apply to become an Erie County Foster/Adoptive



Home is a **very special** decision. We are continually searching for **people like you** to join our 'special family' of Foster/Adoptive homes.

Foster/Adoptive parents **open their hearts** and homes to infants, children and teenagers in need. They give special **care and attention** to children whose own families are no longer capable of caring for them. They provide food,

shelter, clothing and **stability**. They foster a sense of love, trust, care, pride, and **hope for everyone**.



As a Foster/Adoptive parent, you can offer something we all need, a little **extra love**. Some people choose to foster, others adopt, some will do both. But the end result is usually the same – a **brighter future** for

children in need.

The Foster/Adoptive program in Erie County includes infants, children and teenagers from many ethnic backgrounds. Some will require extra special care due to handicaps or medical requirements.

But, they all have specific needs.

Infants need **nurturing**, children need **attentive love**,

and teenagers need **positive role models** for guidance and discipline as they struggle with adulthood.

All foster/adoptive children need a sense of security and **an atmosphere of trust**. They need to be part of a family, to feel wanted and appreciated. But most importantly, whether permanent or temporary – **they all need a home**.

There are many **personal rewards** for being a foster or adoptive parent.

But is anything more priceless than an infant's smile, a child's hug or the respect of a teenager?



Licensed Foster/Adoptive homes are a **'vital resource'** for children and families in Erie County.

Call us today for more complete information at 858-7274.

